

NHCETF Meeting Minutes for September 10, 2012

Present: Mary Mahon, Letty Mcphedran, Caroline Dumont, Sarah Baird, Kenny Foscue

1. July 2012 minutes reviewed and approved.

New Chair

1. New Chair of task force needed. Discussed that Hugh announced he is stepping down as chair and that we will need to appoint a new chair. Appreciation was expressed for Hugh's years of service as chairman. Kenny will continue as vice chair. Sarah voiced concerns about financial aspects of task force, such as needing a clear annual budget so that applications for grants are viable options. Such issues would limit her willingness to take on chairmanship. She also noted that her family could be moving in the next year. May be willing to co-chair with someone else. Caroline requested clear description of chairperson's responsibilities.
2. Sparked discussion of Task Force needs more support and clearer short-term and long-term goals. Kenny expressed that the towns' task forces are not getting enough support in general from higher-ups, such as at CEFIA, and the town. Could have someone attend our meetings every 3-4 months from the State, UI, and/or town. High burn-out rate of volunteers (for example Bethany only has 3 members). This task force numbers are down. We would like to see continued efforts to bring in new members.
3. Set up a standing (perhaps tri-monthly) meeting with Mike Freda. Letty will forward announcements from Roger Smith to Mr. Freda so that he can remain informed. We are each to review our resources for physical displays we use at our table and bring the list to the next meeting. Letty also suggested we create a task force binder with list of all contacts, volunteers, and financial as well as other resources. This binder would come to every meeting, and is a more efficient way for us to compile and access information.

2. Grant for Project Green: Mary has completed paperwork for Project Green grant and has made arrangements with Anthony Giordano for this upcoming year. Students will receive \$10 per sign-up and \$200 grant.

3. Mary noted that the Conservation Commission will be hosting viewing of the movie "Journey of the Universe" on the evening of October 24th at the high school. There will be speakers lined up. A CETF table will need to be set up at that and volunteers are needed.

4. Municipal Energy Planning Guide – Letty brought in copies of Wethersfield's and Milford's guides. These will be passed around so TF members could review them. They are also online. She asked task force members to review West Hartford's guide online before next meeting. She felt Wethersfield's could be used as a guide for us.

Letty has been in touch with Dean of Forestry at Yale (Dr. James Saiers, Dean of Student Affairs 203-432-5121) to try to hire a student to help North Haven write a municipal energy guide. Did not have any responses at the time of this meeting. New England Grassroots Environmental fund may be a possible source of funding to pay a student travel expenses and stipend. However, Sarah has concerns about filling out the grant application without first having clearer financial information about the task force's annual budget. Sarah to be in touch with Roxanne about our EIN – tax exempt number.

5. Regional Workshop: Caroline has been communicating with Justin Haaheim regarding us hosting a second workshop. It will taking place on October 18th from 6-9 pm in the conference room at the North Haven library. Justin and Roger Smith will be in charge of getting the word out and putting together a presentation (topic TBA). We will provide refreshments. Justin thought about 30 people could be expected to attend.

6. Need for new task force members: Kenny will draft a letter to the three local newspapers. Letter will state our accomplishments and list current members.

7. Meeting with Mike Freda and Mike Doucette: Hugh has approached them but has not set up a time for him to sign the 20% by 2018 letter of commitment. Discuss Bright Idea grant for \$10,000 – once it has been earned or is available, what could it be used for? Also, Kenny raised question of Town's switch from oil to gas and if some of the money saved from this could be used towards one of our causes.

8. Other:

Letty updated us about DCS Energy representative presenting to the Board of Selectmen – last meeting the presenter needed to leave for a family emergency. Rescheduled for October 4th.

Town's 2012 Calendar – corrections sent to Ellen Dufour. Have picture of High school solar panels added next year; deadline is passed for this year.

Letty drafted letter regarding the issue that not everyone is recycling and how increasing recycling rates saves the town money.

Chris Fogg's Report from 7/28/11: Letty would like all members to re-read it and know his recommendations.